

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 /050 W

----- 109587

R 061050Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8167

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4563

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SA

SUBJ: PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM: MINISTER OF INTERIOR SURVEY

REF : A. JIDDA 4561; B. STATE 169390

1. EMBASSY SEES NO OBJECTION TO DISPENSING WITH VISIT BY PRE-SURVEY TEAM. AID/OPS/W SHOULD CABLE ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL. NESBITT WILL REQUEST NECESSARY FACILITIES AND SUPPORT FROM MININTERIOR.

2. IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT "SURVEY TEAM" WOULD IN FACT BE COMPOSED OF A NUMBER OF SMALL GROUPS PERFORMING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TOTAL SURVEY AND THAT THEIR WORK WOULD BE STAGGERED OVER PERIOD OF AROUND THREE MONTHS. SAUDI PUBLIC SECURITY COULD NOT COORDINATE WITH MORE THAN ONE OR TWO SURVEY TEAMS AT A TIME.

3. WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO AN EARLY SEPTEMBER ARRIVAL FOR THE FIRST OF THESE TEAMS. TEAMS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT DESPITE ASSURANCES OF HIGH OFFICIALS TO THE CONTRARY, COUNTERPART EFFORT IS LIKELY TO LAG DURING PERIOD SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 20 (RAMADAN AND 'ID HOLIDAYS). MOREOVER, THE SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE BEGINNING A MONTH OF HAJJ (DECEMBER 15 - JANUARY 12) ARE ALWAYS A PERIOD OF INTENSE ACTIVITY WITHIN MINISTRY AS OFFICIALS HOLD MEETINGS AND MAKE PLANS TO HANDLE ANNUAL INFLUX OF PILGRIMS. THESE ACTIVITIES TEND TO DIVERT MINISTRY PERSONNEL FROM OTHER PROJECTS AND IT IS LIKELY THAT SAG PERSONNEL WILL BE LESS AVAILABLE TO SURVEY TEAMS AFTER MID-NOVEMBER. THUS, TEAMS SHOULD ARRIVE AS
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CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO SEPTEMBER FIRST TO GET MOMENTUM UP

BEFORE RAMADAN BEGINS, AND SHOULD ATTEMPT TO COMPLETE AS MUCH OF SURVEY AS POSSIBLE BY MIND-NOVEMBER.

3. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT THE MINISTRY FACES ITS MOST DEMANDING PERIOD WHEN HANDLING PILGRIMS DURING HAJJ. ANY SURVEY OF MINISTRY'S NEEDS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PEAK LOADS OF THIS PERIOD. WE RECOGNIZE THAT COINCIDENCE OF HAJJ WITH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS HOLIDAYS MAKES IT UNLIKELY ANY MEMBERS OF TEAM WILL WISH TO REMAIN IN COUNTRY TO OBSERVE MINISTRY OPERATIONS DURING THIS PERIOD. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF AID/OPS MEMBERS RESIDENT IN COUNTRY COULD HAVE A CHANCE REVIEW DRAFT REPORT IN COUNTRY IN LIGHT OF THEIR AND MININT EXPERIENCES DURING HAJJ PERIOD. COMMENTS WOULD THEN BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR INCLUSION IN FINAL REPORT, WHICH WE ASSUME WOULD BE READY TO GIVE TO SAUDIS IN EARLY TO MID-FEBRUARY.

4. EMBASSY WILL INITIATE REQUEST FOR \$263,000 BY SENDING NOTE VIA FORNMIN TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, REFERENCING AMBASSADOR'S EARLIER CONVERSATION THIS SUBJECT.

5. APPRECIATE INFO ON TEAMS COMPOSITION TIMING AND BIO INFO ASAP.
HORAN

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NNN

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